

GENERAL PERMIT FOR SURVEYING AND GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION

This general permit authorizes scientific surveys and geotechnical exploration in waters of the state. It is intended to allow activities such as core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, soil survey and sampling, and historic resources surveys. This permit also allows the placement and operation of scientific measurement devices such as staff gages, water recording devices, water quality testing and improvement devices and similar structures. Drilling and excavation for test wells for oil and gas exploration is not authorized by this general permit. Surveying and geotechnical exploration is hereby permitted by this general permit, provided the activity is done according to the terms and conditions.

Exclusions

This general permit cannot be used to authorize work in the following circumstances:

- (a) where wetlands will be adversely affected by the proposed work;
- (b) when the activity is located in any waterway which is identified by the Department as having contaminated sediments, and where the proposed work will likely mobilize the contaminants;
- (c) where the activity is located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, a State Scenic River, or waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters;
- (d) when the project will adversely affect a species formally listed on State or Federal lists of threatened or endangered species;
- (e) where the proposed activity is drilling and excavation for test wells for oil and gas exploration; or
- (f) when an individual permit is required.

Surveying and geotechnical exploration activities not qualifying for authorization by this general permit may be authorized by individual permit provided all requirements of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* are met.

Notification

Notification to the Division is not required for surveying and geotechnical exploration activities conducted in accordance with this general permit. However, all of the general terms and conditions below apply.

General Terms and Conditions

- 1) Prior authorization must be obtained when necessary by the applicant pursuant to applicable provisions of §10 of *The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1897*, §404 of the *Clean Water Act* and §26a of *The Tennessee Valley Authority Act*.
- 2) All materials to be discharged or placed below ordinary high water must be free of pollutants, contaminants, toxic materials, trash, creosote treated timbers, or other wastes as defined by T.C.A. 69-3-103(18).
- 3) Erosion and sediment control measures are required where soil will be disturbed. The control measures must be in place before earthmoving operations begin, maintained throughout the construction period and repaired, if necessary, after rainfall. Control measures such as straw bales and/or silt fence must be installed along the base of all fills and cuts, on the down hill side of stock piled soil, and along the waterbody in cleared areas to prevent movement of sediments into the waters. They must be installed parallel to the waterbody, entrenched and staked, and extend the width of the area to be cleared.

- 4) Slurry water pumped from work areas and excavations must be held in settling basins or treated by filtration prior to its discharge into surface waters. Water must be held in sediment basins until at least as clear as the receiving waters. Settling basins shall not be located closer than 20 feet from the water line. Settling basins and traps shall be properly designed according to the size of the drainage areas or volume of water to be treated.
- 5) Clearing, grubbing and other disturbance to riparian vegetation shall be limited to the minimum necessary for grading work and equipment operations. Unnecessary vegetation removal is prohibited. All disturbed areas shall be properly stabilized as soon as practicable.
- 6) Appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure that petroleum products or other chemical pollutants are prevented from entering waters of the state. All spills must be reported to the appropriate emergency management agency, and measures shall be taken immediately to prevent the pollution of waters of the state, including groundwater.
- 7) Upon achievement of final grade, all disturbed areas must be stabilized and re-vegetated within 30 days by sodding or seeding and mulching. Seed to be utilized shall include a combination of annual grains and grasses, legumes, and perennial grasses. Lime and fertilizer shall be applied as needed to achieve a vegetative cover.
- 8) Surveying or geotechnical exploration activities conducted in navigable waters must be conducted in a manner that does not interfere with navigation.
- 9) Adverse impact to formally listed state or federal threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, or to cultural, historical, or archeological features or sites is prohibited.

Effective Date July 1, 2000
Expiration Date June 30, 2005

APPROVED: _____
Paul Davis, Director